















Interpretation and Protection are Top Trail Accomplishments in FY08



Left to right: Historic village of Doña Ana; planning for interpretation on the El Paso River Trail with CARTA and El Paso partners; hiking up the newly-acquired Jornada del Muerto easement; La Bajada cultural landscape, with historic Camino Real de Tierra Adentro trace paralleling old Route 66; wayside exhibits at El Rancho de las Golondrinas.

Trail work on El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro kicked into high gear in FY08. Municipalities, counties, and communities are revitalizing their connections to El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, signage initiatives are creating tremendous trail visibility, and community participation is building a stewardship ethic along the old royal road. We are now partnering with eight communities on active projects, and working with many state, tribal, and federal agencies. Our certification program has grown to twelve sites and we expect to add 19 trail sites to the National Register of Historic Places by next year.



Accomplishments and key partnership activities:

-  Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association (CARTA) field program on Jornada del Muerto.
-  Assisted historic village of Doña Ana with preservation and wayside exhibits planning.
-  Trail-wide National Register nomination program to nominate public and privately-owned trail segments.
-  County-wide signage plan for El Paso County, Texas.
-  Integrated signage plan for route and historic sites in Bernalillo County, New Mexico.
-  El Paso River Trail bilingual interpretive signage.
-  Trailhead development on public lands on Jornada del Muerto.
-  Easement for six miles of pristine, historic trace on New Mexico State Lands.
-  University of New Mexico field training program to document trail landscapes.
-  Built consensus for an innovative suite of mitigation measures with the Federal Aviation Authority, New Mexico Spaceport Authority, New Mexico Department of Transportation, the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.
-  Cooperative agreement between trail administration and CARTA renewed.
-  CARTA contributed 2,269 hours to trail projects.




Priority Issues for FY09 and Beyond

Trail Visibility: We will expand our signage planning program, certify sign additional sites, and build new partnerships.

International Initiatives: BLM and NPS trail administration will build our strong partnership with Mexico. We plan to:

-  Expand landscape documentation training to include significant trail landscapes in Mexico.
-  Work with Mexico as they nominate El Camino de La Plata, the Mexican portion of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, to the World Heritage List, and assist efforts to consider a United States nomination.

Resource Documentation and Data Sharing: To meet administrative and management goals, we need to:

-  Complete in-field trail inventory and establish base-line trail conditions for federal protection components.
-  Provide assistance for resource inventory, documentation, and evaluation on non-federal lands.
-  Implement data sharing processes to give ready access to trail data for planners, project managers, and developers.

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